

IN SECRET SOCIETIES

Grand Master of Masons James William Hooper.

INDOMITABLE PERSEVERANCE.

The Story of an Honorable Career—News of General Interest of the Other Fraternal Orders—Notes.

Perhaps nothing could better illustrate the character of Grand Master James William Hooper than a mention of his sturdy struggle for an education while he was a boy. He attended the country schools of Kentucky. He was naturally fond of reading, and eagerly stored away any information he might be able to obtain. Books were not at all plentiful around young Hooper's home. Among those which he could obtain, however, were some heavy theological treatises. They were full of Greek words and phrases. Young Hooper, therefore, decided to learn Greek. With the aid of a second hand grammar, which he picked up somewhere, and with no outside help, he persevered until, when he was 15 years old, he was able to enter the Millersburg (Ky.) College institution. There he took up Latin, and in a month (thanks to his previous self imposed training) went through the grammar. It has been so all through his life. No obstacle has been too high for him to surmount, if on the other side lay duty. No road has been too rough for him to travel, if at its end was success.

He was born in Nicholas county, Ky., Nov. 28, 1839. His father died when he was but 6 months old. His grand parents came from Culpeper county, Va., in 1815, and settled in Bourbon county.

His first work was school teaching, and as, after he finished his college course, he was a fluent speaker of French, German, Spanish and Italian, and an accomplished Greek and Latin scholar, as well as being well up in the other branches, he must have made a good teacher. In 1860 James William Hooper, he began the study of the law. In 1862 he was licensed to practice. In 1863 he became associate editor of The Lebanon Clarion, and in 1870 he founded The Lebanon Times, which afterwards became The Standard and Times, having absorbed The Lebanon Standard. He has continued ever since as editor and manager of The Standard and Times. In 1873 he was known as the "Foot of the Kentucky Press," and in 1874 was made orator of the Press association, of which he was made president in 1887.

Bro. Hooper was made a Mason in Vesper lodge, No. 71, at Elkton, Ky., in 1864. He joined Abraham lodge, No. 8, on moving to Louisville, and afterward transferred his membership to Lebanon lodge, No. 57. After serving in various positions he was elected master, in 1871, and re-elected at several annual meetings. In 1873 he attended Grand lodge for the first time. He has served on different committees since that time, and was elected grand junior warden, and regularly promoted until 1885, when he was elected grand master.

He was initiated in Edmunds Royal Arch chapter, No. 83, and admitted in Lebanon council, No. 54, in 1876, serving as high priest and twice illustrious master. In the grand council he was elected grand conductor of work, in 1883, and reached the grand master's chair by regular promotion. In 1877 he delivered a Masonic address at Lebanon, which was copied into several papers.

Notes.
There were 211 deaths in the Order of the State of California in 1888, against 207 in 1887.

There are 231 lodges in Illinois.
The total membership of the A. O. U. W. on Oct. 1, as reported by the supreme recorder, was 211,510. The total disbursements for beneficiary claims were \$210,837.50.

The Grand Lodge of Indiana assumed a separate jurisdiction on the 1st of December with a reported membership of 2,493. This jurisdiction expects to add 2,500 members during the next year.

A fact in relation to the death of Washington, not generally known, is thus stated in The Washington Star: The day after his death the clock in the Masonic lodge in Alexandria, at which he was a member, was set at the hour and minute of his demise. Then the clock was stopped, and it has never been permitted to run, nor have the hands been moved since.

The Art association of the Masonic temple, Philadelphia, has given proof of the wisdom that created it, says The Pacific States. It recently presented a life size portrait of Past Grand Master Bro. John Thompson to the temple committee, who received it on behalf of the grand Masonic lodge of Pennsylvania and awarded it a choice position in the lion hall of the Masonic temple. This association now has about 500 members and is engaged in decorating the Egyptian hall of the temple. We would like to see the example of our Quaker City brothers become contagious, as it would educate a taste too much neglected.

A. O. U. W.

Some Statistics of Interest Concerning Membership and Benefits.

The total amount paid by the A. O. U. W. on death losses during the fiscal year of 1887 was \$3,433,287. The total amount paid on death losses since the organization of the order to Jan. 1, 1888, was \$29,524,077.

Every dollar of these vast sums has been placed directly in the hands of the widows of deceased members without the loss of a single cent, without a cent's discount or commission. The majority of the certificates have been paid within thirty days from the date of death, and the remainder as soon thereafter as the required proof of death and the proper beneficiaries could be made out. The total number of A. O. U. W. lodges on Jan. 1, 1888, was 3,421. The total number of new lodges for the year 1887 was 260. The average membership of lodges for same year was 61. The total membership Jan. 1, 1888, was 150,000, and the total number admitted during the year 1887 was 34,263. Total number of applications rejected for year 1887, 4,087. The average yearly death rate per 1,000 members for nine years (1879 to 1887 inclusive) is 8.34, and the average yearly number of assessments for nine years (1879 to 1887 inclusive) is 17. The number of members Oct. 1, 1888, was 210,558, showing a net increase for the nine months of this year of 14,558.

There are 415 lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Missouri, sixty-nine of which are located in St. Louis; the membership aggregates 25,700.

Our membership, says The Overlook, will exceed 225,000 by the time the supreme lodge meets again if the present rate of increase continues.

MASONIC.

The Bible Used at the Inauguration of Washington Owned by a F. A. M. Lodge.

The Bible on which Gen. George Washington took the oath of office as the first president of the United States has been photographed by St. John's lodge, No. 1, of New

York city, for the use of the centennial committee, and will be used by them in their story of the forthcoming celebration on April 30, 1889. The Bible has been photographed in six different positions, one of which is the page on which President Washington's hand rested while taking the oath of office.

The history of the Washington Bible is one of the incidents connected with the early days of the Masonic fraternity in New York city. According to the records of St. John's lodge, No. 1, the authenticity of the old Bible is assured. When Washington was about to be inaugurated, the committee of arrangements found that, in the excitement about Federal hall, the necessity of a Bible had been overlooked, and the hour for the inauguration was rapidly approaching. The City hotel stood where now the Trinity building is, and consequently was only a short distance from Federal hall, in Wall street.

Both Washington and Chancellor Livingston were Freemasons, and knew that on the Masonic altar is always to be found an open Bible while the lodge is in session. St. John's lodge held its meetings in the City hotel, and if the altar was to be found there would be no difficulty in obtaining the Bible for so important an occasion. That officer was found, as he was an attaché of the hotel, and the Bible secured and used, after which it was returned to the lodge room. An entry of the fact was made in the minutes of the next meeting of the lodge, and the Bible resumed its place on the Masonic altar. When it became necessary in after years to replace the old book by one of more modern style, the ancient volume was deposited in a place of security as a relic of the lodge.

St. John's lodge, when informed of the desire of the centennial committee, gave its consent to allow the sacred volume to be used on April 30, 1889, and appointed a committee of past masters to take charge of the same during the ceremonies and to see that no harm came to it.

A New Order of Scottish Odd Fellows.

A movement of great importance is said to be on foot among Scottish Odd Fellows, says The London Daily News. A number of Scottish lodges have passed resolutions in favor of a general secession from the parent body, and the formation of a new order to embrace the whole of Scotland. It appears that for some time past considerable discontent has existed among Scottish Odd Fellows because of the manner in which (so it is alleged) privileges which should accrue to them from their membership are neutralized, owing to their amalgamation with an order whose headquarters are so far distant. The central executive are reported to be using every effort to heal the breach, and have issued a manifesto, in which they counsel the Scottish members to remain true to the parent order.

Knights of Honor.

The Knights of Honor is on another boom. The more it is talked up and the better the people become acquainted with its objects the faster it increases its membership, and Whitney boasts of the biggest lodge in central Texas—Whitney (Tex.) Messenger.

The order has paid out over \$24,000,000 in death benefits since its foundation.

Aged Odd Fellows.

Out of twenty-nine past grand sires of the Sovereign Grand lodge, says The Triple Link, there are only eleven living at the present time; of the last number only two are the senior of Past Grand Sire James B. Nicholson—Past Grand Sire Thomas Sherlock, of Cincinnati, O., who was grand sire from 1845-47, and Past Grand Sire Sam Craighead, of Dayton, O., who was grand sire from 1858-60.

POPULAR DENMAN THOMPSON.

Something About the Man Who Made "The Old Homestead."

There is perhaps no actor in this country who has done more good will of the stage going public and patron of drama than Old Uncle Josh, Denman Thompson, who has secured such a strong hold upon the New York public in the new version of "Joshua Whitcomb," "The Old Homestead." Uncle Josh first saw the light of day at Girard, Erie county, Pa., on the 12th day of October, 1833. When he was 14 years old he was sent to New Hampshire to be educated at the Mount Clear seminary. The year of 1850 found him in Boston engaged in the capacity of "super" at the Howard Athenaeum. This, however, was a little too slow for his taste and he soon joined the stock company of Brown and Biddle, playing a sort of general utility man, dancing the sailor's horripilation between the acts.

In the course of time he drifted west and was several years at a Toronto theatre playing second comedy parts, Irish characters, such as Lucius O'Trigger in the "Rivals" and Paddy Miles' Boy in the "Limerick Boy." He was fairly successful in those parts, but the people wanted rant and fire and brimstone, which was not exactly to his liking. So in 1857 he went to Rochester, played low comedy parts and also backed the tiger with various success. He remained there two years, and made such a pronounced success as Salem Souder in "The Octoroon" and as Jonathan Hook in "Moll Pitcher," both Yankee characters, that he determined to make a Yankee character part to suit himself. The winter of 1874-5 found him in Pittsburgh, the idea of a Yankee character was still haunting him, and he decided to write one, which he did, and called it "Joshua Whitcomb; or, The Fenian Butlers."

It may be interesting to know where he got the idea of Joshua Whitcomb. It was a character taken from two men, who lived at Swansea, N. H. The serious side of the role was modeled from Joshua Holbrook, a sturdy farmer, who had rather singular ideas about regulating the world to make it conform to his views. The humorous portion of the character was taken from Capt. Otis Whitcomb, a quaint, humorous old Swansea farmer. Thompson played it at the Pittsburgh variety theatre in February, 1875. From there he went to Rochester. It was here that J. M. Hill heard of him, and, after witnessing the performance, made the actor's acquaintance, and, after a few words, offered to place him and his sketch upon a regular stage. The piece was not a very clean one; it was one that few ladies would care to witness, dealing as it did with female bathers, seen through a fence.

The play was produced with varied success at Hooley's in Chicago (1879), for a week; it then made the tour of the country with indifferent success. At last Hill took his protégé to San Francisco, where Josh met with instantaneous success, running for eight consecutive weeks. From that time on it proved a bonanza for six years, and drew over \$400,000 for its enterprising manager and clever actor. Hill then dissolved his connection with Thompson, and Den has been going it alone ever since.

Mr. Thompson's new play, "The Old Homestead," deals with Joshua Whitcomb at home, and its success has been marvelous. It draws bigger crowds today than when it was first presented. Uncle Joshua's profits in "The Old Homestead" are said to be over \$100,000; he has earned a number of fortunes, but has

dropped some of them in speculation, and domestic life is happy, and he spends every summer at his child's home in Swansea, where he renews his intimacy with the life that is now nightly depicted in "The Old Homestead."

A Safe Place.

Conductor—You're on the wrong train. This ticket is for Montreal. We're going to St. Louis.

Napoleon of Finance—Great heavens! How did I make such a mistake! Lemme off! No, go on. It's all right. I never suspected of leaving Chicago to go to St. Louis.—Chicago Herald.

An Old Saying Reversed.

A man doesn't know what he can't do until he tries and fails.—Martha's Vineyard Herald.

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